

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Reconsideration of this patent application is respectfully requested in view of the foregoing amendments and the following remarks.

The Examiner has rejected claims 1-6 under 35 USC 103(a) as being unpatentable over US patent number 6,103,994 to *DeCoster et al.* in view of US Patent number 5,343,016 to *Davis et al.*

In addition, the examiner has rejected claims 1-4 and 5 under 35 USC 112 second paragraph. Accordingly, claims 1-6 have been canceled without prejudice and new claims 7- 12 are being presented based on the original claims 1-6.

It is respectfully submitted that claim 7 is patentable over the above cited references. For example, *DeCoster et al.* does not disclose the step of:

"selectively allocating a selected welding parameter for setting or adjustment to an external operating unit provided on an external component."

Instead, as shown in FIG.1 of *DeCoster et al.*, different control devices such as shown by reference 29 can include a trigger only

device 30 a fingertip control device or a foot control device 31 and a hand control device 32. These devices can be used in connection with a remote control circuit 28 via remote connector 36. In this case, control circuit 16 detects the type of remote device that is coupled to the remote connector for receiving a remote device signal from one or more remote devices 29 in remote control circuit 28. In this case, each of the devices are external remote control devices such that the user is able to set, or adjust a fixedly dedicated welding parameter in a central unit. However, *DeCoster et al.* does not disclose a device having an external component that receives instructions or welding parameters from a central unit. Therefore, it is respectfully submitted that features of claim 7 are not disclosed in the reference to *DeCoster et al.*

In addition, *Davis et al.* disclose a microprocessor controlled welding apparatus being capable sensing external switches or other devices. However with *Davis*, it is not possible to selectively allocate a selected welding parameter to an external operating unit provided on an external component. In addition, with *Davis*, it is not possible to perform the following step:

"setting or changing said welding parameter, based upon activation or adjustment of the external operating unit provided on the external component."

Thus, it is respectfully submitted that the references to *DeCoster* or *Davis* taken either alone or in combination are not obvious in view of claim 7.

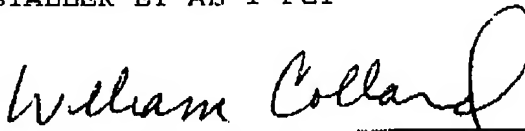
For example, with the present invention it is possible for a user of the welding apparatus, according to claim 7, to carry out a variable allocation of different welding parameters to external components without requiring an accordingly trained person. With the present invention, a control program can provide a flexible allocation of the parameters from a welding apparatus to an external component in particular, a welding torch. With this design, a user is thus able to allocate at least one desired welding parameter to least one external component, to enable a welding parameter to be subsequently adjusted from the external component. With this design and process, this constitutes considerable enhancement of the welding process, because the users are now able to freely allocate, as a function of a respective application or welding process required, the welding parameters, which can be adjustable via external components. Thus, this process allows for an optimum adaptation of the

external components to the most various or different welding processes or applications.

Therefore it is respectfully submitted that new claims 7 -12 are patentable over the above cited references taken either singly or in combination.

Early allowance of the remaining claims is respectfully requested.

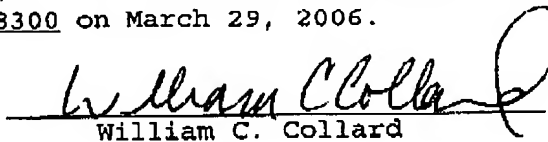
Respectfully submitted,
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I hereby certify that this correspondence is being sent by facsimile transmission to the U.S.P.T.O. to Patent Examiner M. Aboagye at Group No. 1725, to 1-571-273-8300 on March 29, 2006.


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